



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Troy Waymaster, Chairperson  
House Committee on Appropriations  
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 112-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Waymaster:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2774 by House Committee on Appropriations

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2774 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2774 would create the crimes of assault of a public-facing worker and battery of a public-facing worker. Under the bill, assault of a public-facing worker would be defined as knowingly placing a public-facing worker in reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm while the worker is engaged in the performance of assigned duties. Under current law, assault is a class C person misdemeanor; the bill would make assault of a public-facing worker a class B person misdemeanor. Battery of a public-facing worker would be defined as knowingly or recklessly causing bodily harm to, or knowingly causing physical contact in a rude, insulting, or angry manner with, a public-facing worker while the worker is engaged in the performance of assigned duties. Under current law, battery is a class B person misdemeanor; the bill would make battery of a public-facing worker a severity level 10, person felony.

The bill would define "public-facing worker" as any person who, as part of employment, occupation, contract, or volunteer service, regularly has direct contact with members of the public in the performance of assigned duties. The definition would include sports officials, retail and grocery store employees, food service and hospitality workers, healthcare and social service workers, public transit operators, utility and postal workers, government employees and contractors, and employees or volunteers of nonprofit organizations serving the public.

The Sentencing Commission estimates that enactment of HB 2774 would increase prison admissions and the number of prison beds needed, but that an effect cannot be estimated. The current estimated available bed capacity is 9,924 for males and 968 for females. Based upon the

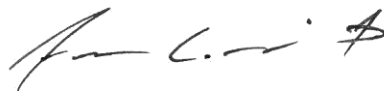
Commission's most recent ten-year projection contained in its *FY 2026 Adult Inmate Prison Population Projections* report, it is estimated that the year-end population would total 9,176 male and 924 female inmates in FY 2026 and 9,485 male and 953 female inmates in FY 2027.

The Judiciary indicates enactment of the bill could increase the number of cases filed in district courts because it creates new crimes. This could increase the time spent by district court judicial and nonjudicial personnel in processing, researching, and hearing cases. Since the crimes carry misdemeanor and felony penalties, there could also be more supervision of offenders required to be performed by court services officers. The bill could also result in the collection of supervision fees, docket fees, and fines, which would be deposited into the State General Fund. However, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

The Board of Indigents' Defense Services estimates that enactment of the bill would increase State General Fund expenditures by unknown amounts in FY 2027 and FY 2028. Because the Board's offices currently operate at capacity, new felony cases would likely be referred to private attorneys for court appointment. The Board estimates that at a rate of \$125 per hour for approximately 35 hours of defense attorney work per case, each new case would cost \$4,375. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2774 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates that enactment of HB 2774 would have no fiscal effect on city governments. The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that enactment of the bill could increase expenditures for county governments, but that the fiscal effect would depend on how often the crime is charged and sentenced. The Association was not able to provide an estimate of the fiscal effect on county governments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", followed by a stylized flourish.

Adam C. Proffitt  
Director of the Budget

cc: Trisha Morrow, Judiciary  
Ann Sagan, Board of Indigents Defense Services  
Jennifer King, Department of Corrections  
Scott Schultz, Kansas Sentencing Commission  
Bruce Chladny, Kansas Association of Counties  
Wendi Stark, League of Kansas Municipalities